



## COUNTY OF PLACER FISH & GAME COMMISSION

Ed King  
Deputy Agricultural Commissioner  
County Contact

### FISH & GAME COMMISSION MEMBERS

DISTRICT 1 Don Gould	DISTRICT 2 Mark Fowler
DISTRICT 3 Gregg McKenzie	DISTRICT 4 Gary Flanagan
DISTRICT 5 Kari Freidig	DISTRICT 5 Marc Wyatt
DISTRICT 5 Mickey Daniels	

11477 E AVENUE  
AUBURN, CALIFORNIA 95603  
TELEPHONE: (530) 889-7372  
FAX: (530) 823-1698  
[www.placer.ca.gov](http://www.placer.ca.gov)

## PLACER COUNTY FISH & GAME COMMISSION MINUTES

**TIME/DATE:** 7:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, April 23, 2014

**LOCATION:** PLACER COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING ROOM  
Community Development Resource Agency, DeWitt Center, Auburn  
3091 County Center Drive (corner of Bell Road and Richardson Drive)

The Placer County Fish & Game Commission is committed to ensuring that persons with disabilities are provided the resources to participate fully in its public meetings. If you are hearing impaired, we have listening devices available. If you require additional disability-related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Recording Secretary at (530) 889-7372. If requested, the agenda shall be provided in appropriate alternative formats to persons with disabilities. All requests must be received at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting for which you are requesting accommodation. Requests received after such time will be accommodated only if time permits.

**I. CALL TO ORDER** – Don Gould, Chairman

**II. ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Don Gould, Mark Fowler, Gary Flanagan, Mickey Daniels, Gregg McKenzie, Marc Wyatt, Kari Freidig

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR April 23, 2014 AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF February 26, 2014**

Agenda: *Flanagan/Daniels/MPUV*

Minutes: *Fowler/Freidig/MPUV (Gould abstained)*

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Individuals may address the Commission on items under the jurisdiction of the Agricultural Commission not included on this agenda for no longer than five (5) minutes. ***No action can be taken on items addressed under Public Comment***

None.

## **V. FINANCIAL REPORT**

### **Budget Update – Ed King**

Expenditures for FY 13/14, through March 31, 2014, total \$8,415.32 including \$990.00 in commissioner's fees, \$500.00 in secretary fees, \$1,062.20 in mileage reimbursement, \$4995.80 in grant awards and \$867.00 in A-87 costs.

Revenues through March 31, total \$547.81 including \$370.69 in fine and penalty monies and \$177.12 in interest.

## **VI. AGENCY REPORTS**

### **A. Commission Updates**

Fowler: Water Resources Control Board staff is writing a draft statewide mercury control program for reservoirs

Flanagan: Department of Fish & Wildlife is seeking county fish and game commission input in the process to transition to non-lead ammunition. Request that this be a future agenda item to discuss and potentially make recommendations to DFW.

Freidig: Suggested contacting DFW to asking them to hold a non-lead ammunition workshop in Placer County as they have done in other locations. Ben Smith with the Institute of Wildlife Studies is not responding to requests to present to the commission on non-lead alternatives.

### **B. State Wildlife Conservation Board Subcommittee – Gregg McKenzie**

The WCB strategic plan workshop is scheduled for May 1. Commissioner McKenzie is planning to attend.

### **C. State Fish & Game Commission Subcommittee – Mark Fowler**

Potential gray wolf threatened/endangered listing will be determined by the state commission at a later date.

### **B. California Department of Fish & Wildlife - Lt. John Lawson**

None.

### **C. Nevada Irrigation District - Sue Sindt**

February and March precipitation was 150% of average. Storage is at 110% of average. Snow pack is 35% of average. Net impact to customers because of minimal snow pack is a 10-15% voluntary reduction in water use. There is strong concern regarding carryover storage into next year and NID will purchase additional supply from PG&E.

FERC FEIS has been delayed 2-3 months. There will be an extended comment period on the FEIS.

## **NON-ACTION ITEMS**

**VII. Fruitvale School Hall, Fish and Game Commission grant program report** – Lindy Grey

Fruitvale School is using commission grant funding support to help educate 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade children about local wildlife with a current focus on quail. Grant funding helps support the one day per week program. Students also have studied bats and owls and make clay representations of each bird species studied.

**VIII. AB 2205 – Mammals: Use of Dogs to Pursue Bears and Bobcats, Staff Report** – Ed King

In June 2012, the Placer Fish & Game Commission, after hearing presentations from DFW and public comment, voted to send a recommendation letter to the BOS in opposition to SB 1221. The BOS did not act on the recommendation. The bill was signed into law and went into effect in January 2013.

AB 2205 seeks to amend Fish & Game Code provisions that restrict use of hounds to pursue bears. Specifically, AB 2205 would require DFW to issue a bear report to the state fish and game commission every 3 years and to notify counties affected by bear-human interactions. If notified by DFW, a county BOS may then elect to hold a public hearing regarding bear-human safety and economic impacts. Based on information presented at the hearing, a BOS may then elect to make a recommendation to DFW allowing the use of dogs to pursue bear. If a county adopted such a resolution, DFW would then make a recommendation to the state commission to authorize use of dogs during specific hunting periods within that county.

**IX. AB 2205 – Local Control of Bears/Public Safety** – Bill Gaines, California Houndsmen for Conservation

Provided a summary of AB 2205 including requirements of DFW, if implemented, and local control options available to individual counties.

AB 2205 does not remove the science from management strategies. DFW would maintain harvest quotas and seasons.

SB 1221 was narrowly passed with the support of urban legislators in 2012 and was based on emotions, not science. SB 1221 ignored impacts that the hound ban would have on rural counties that have severe bear problems. Thirty-two counties opposed SB 1221.

Since SB 1221 passed bear harvest numbers are down 52% and populations and related public safety instances are now at historic highs.

AB 2205 does not universally remove the current ban on use of hounds, but provides an option for local decisions to permit pursuit of bears with hounds.

Hound stamp in the upcoming bill amendment will help fund additional DFW research and management.

The first hearing on the bill is scheduled on April 29<sup>th</sup> before the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee.

Upcoming amendments will remove bobcat from the bill.

*Public Comment:*

Marilyn Jasper, Sierra Club, Public Interest Coalition – Use of hounds in remote areas stresses wildlife including listed species and exposes wildlife to communicable diseases. Dog handlers cannot always control their animals. DFW does not use recreational killing to manage bear populations. The 1,700 bear tag limit is set arbitrarily, not with management objectives. The current ban on using hounds does not prohibit bear hunting. County-by-county hunting boundary regulations will not be practical or effective. Ask that the commission not to take any action on the item, or request that the BOS to oppose AB 2205.

Catherine Smith, BEAR League - The practice of hounding bears is unnecessary and is banned in many states. Agencies can use other management strategies to control populations and hunters can learn to use other hunting methods than hounds to take bears. In Oregon and Washington, the number of bears taken after banning use of hounds increased. Urban bear complaints did not increase in those states after hound bans were implemented. Urban bear complaints result primarily from poorly kept garbage. Hound hunting often results in injuries to cubs as well as dogs. Bears are not adapted to running long distances for long periods and such behavior is especially detrimental just prior to hibernation. The majority of the public, including hunters, oppose hunting with hounds.

Commissioner Gould: Do you not think that 1,000 extra bears in the wild will result in additional human-bear conflicts?

Catherine Smith: No, because the drought is limiting population increases. Bears regulate their own populations as long as there is not trash around to eat.

Commissioner Wyatt: In the states you indicated that have banned use of hounds, how many permit baiting?

Catherine Smith: Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Montana, Pennsylvania and most western states do not permit baiting. Hunters do not like hunting with hounds. It goes against the principle of fair chase.

Nick Stone – Thank you for your opposition to SB 1221. Many people have different ideas of fair chase. As long as hunting methods are legal and based on

sound management they should be tolerated and accepted. AB 2205, if passed, does not permit large packs of dogs to roam through the forest. Many urban legislators may not be in touch with their constituents or rural residents. California hunters prefer to spend money within California. Depredation does not permit the full use of the animal.

Dennis Cavallo – Has the commission read the bill? This bill removes current depredation rules. I understand that most of you are hunters and the knee-jerk reaction is to support this bill. We are not against hunting, just this kind of hunting. It has been proven that problem bears are never taken by hunters. No one has ever mentioned bobcat. Hunting a treed animal is not sporting or humane. This bill is big money. If you read the bill, you might change your mind.

Cindy Tobiason, Nevada County Fish & Wildlife Commission – The BEAR League advocates using dogs for bear problems. Most hound hunters do not take bears. Houndsmen enjoy taking care of their dogs. DFW is concerned that the bear population is escalating out of control and considers dogs as part of the ecosystem and a management tool. Dogs rarely catch a bear on the ground, they are trained to tree bears, which allows for a humane shot. Hunters do not kill sows or cubs. All states allow hunting in one form or another. DFW has used hunting as a management tool since its inception. Washington has a huge bear problem and is trying to restore use of hounds on a county-by-county basis. Oregon now allows a spring bear hunt because their bear populations are increasing. Houndsmen are not maniacs running around.

Christine Rydell, Senior District Representative to Senator Nielsen – Anti-hunting and anti-gun legislation is often introduced and supported by urban and suburban legislators—they dictate what happens in rural areas. Since 1221 passed, DFW reported to our office that the ban on hounds resulted in hunters taking more females and young bears. The ability to tree bears with hounds provides hunters a tool for selective take. Senator Nielsen favors the DFW reporting and local control aspects of the legislation and will be signing on to the bill as a co-sponsor when it comes into the Senate.

Sharon Cavallo, Auburn resident – Hounding is banned in two-thirds of the states. It is archaic and unconscionable that California is considering permitting hounding. Hound hunting is cruel and 70% of the time hunters kill treed bears because males and females look virtually identical. There is not an abundance of bears in California. Most California residents are not in favor of hounding and do not want wildlife treated cruelly. Ask that the commission not support this legislation. The results of the previous legislation should be allowed to work for a few years and see how it works before allowing hound hunters to make a lot of money.

**X. Bear Hunting Using Baiting and Hounds – BEAR League representative**

Ann Bryant – Showed video footage taken in other parts of the country using bear baiting, hounding and snaring. Hunting and hound hunting in particular is not a way to manage human-wildlife conflicts. Hounding is unethical, many bear hunters oppose using hounds and if permitted will not result in reduced human-bear conflicts in the Tahoe area. Please do not shame us and take us back to another time that we are not proud of.

Ali Van Zee – Bear League Board of Directors President – The Association of Fair Chase Hunters is opposed to hounding. DFW has not conducted an accurate bear survey and does not consider hunting as a management tool. SB 1221 passed both houses by a 60/40 margin.

**XI. Discuss letter of request from the Colusa County Fish & Game Commission to oppose anti-hunting legislation – Kari Freidig**

Commissioner Freidig expressed concern that the Central Sierra Association of Fish and Game Commissioners is straying from defined MOU objectives in attempts oppose anti-hunting legislation. Commissioner Flanagan clarified that the Colusa County letter in no way represented the opinion or direction of the Central Sierra Association. The Association continues to act in accordance with the mutually agreed upon MOU.

**XII. Status update on County Counsel's Public Records Act information request to the Department of Fish & Wildlife – Ed King**

DFW has denied county counsel's PRA requests for Placer County citation information claiming law enforcement investigatory files exemption.

**XIII. Status update on the Commission's Lahontan cutthroat trout recommendation letter to the Board of Supervisors – Ed King**

On April 22, the BOS approved the commission's recommendation to forward letters of concern regarding reintroduction of Lahontan cutthroat trout to the Nevada Department of Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and DFW.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**XIV. Consider making a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors in opposition or support of AB 2205.**

Freidig – Does not support sending a letter of recommendation in favor of AB 2205 to the BOS. Believes the majority of Placer County residents do not feel this bill is necessary and are not supportive of the bill.

Wyatt – The current hound ban is a step toward further hunting restrictions and removes another tool from sportsmen. The majority of people he has spoken with in his district do support the bill and favor the return of legal hound hunting.

Daniels – In agreement with Commissioner Wyatt's position.

McKenzie – Interested in the local control and reporting components of the bill. The commission needs to examine the bill, but favors reevaluating it a later date when an amended version is presented.

Flanagan – *Motion*: Commission chair draft a letter to the Board of Supervisors recommending that they support AB 2205. *Second*: Wyatt.

Ayes: Flanagan, Wyatt, Daniels, Gould (VOTE 4:3)

Noes: Freidig, Fowler, McKenzie

**XV. Next Meeting Date**

May 28, 2014

**XVI. Adjournment**

9:55 PM